

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 25, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write today to urge you to appoint Mehrsa Baradaran as the next Comptroller of the Currency at the U.S. Department of Treasury. We share your commitment to helping the country build back better and enabling all Americans to reach their full potential. Given the critical role that this office plays in creating and enacting policies to bridge the racial wealth gap and address the persistent issue of wealth inequality, it is clear that Ms. Baradaran is the best choice for this role.

Baradaran is a brilliant scholar and consumer advocate who has devoted her career to understanding and narrowing the racial wealth gap. She understands the nuances of how to leverage market forces to reach racial and economic equity, and through her books — *How the Other Half Banks* and *The Color of Money: Black Banking and the Racial Wealth Gap* — she has helped the public understand racial and economic inequality within our banking and financial system. She has outlined innovative policies, such as a 21st Century Homestead Act to purchase abandoned properties in cities and grant them to qualified residents, and using the post office to provide banking services for underbanked Americans. Appointing her as Comptroller of the Currency would be, in short, transformative.

We are in a moment of national crisis during which existing economic and racial injustices have been exacerbated by the pandemic, and we need an OCC leader whose values are fully aligned with the needs of working people. Other proposed candidates for the OCC do not have the same track record as Mehrsa on these issues, and in fact, they have ties to internet-savvy lenders which have exploited vulnerable consumers. They may be qualified for the job, but what we need is an expert whose worldview is suited for this moment and who is prepared to aggressively undo the harms of the past. Mehrsa is the leader of the OCC that we need.

Our desire is to work with your administration to create a government and an economy which puts Main Street above Wall Street. At this moment in particular, working people need to know one of the most powerful positions in the federal government is their ally. We hope you agree with us and appoint Ms. Baradaran to be the next leader of the Office of Comptroller of the Currency.

Sincerely,



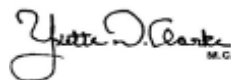
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



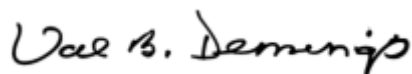
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D
Member of Congress




Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Karen Bass
Member of Congress



Val Demings
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Cori Bush
Member of Congress



Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress



G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

/s/ André Carson
Member of Congress



Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



Mondaire Jones
Member of Congress



Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



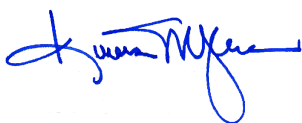
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress



Kweisi Mfume
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Marc Veasey
Member of Congress